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Application of: Kajander et al

Art Unit:

Serial No. 09/923,932

Case Docket No. 7144

Filed: August 7, 2001

Examiner:

For: Method of Making Foam Coated Mat Online and Coated Mat Product

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner of the Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

NATIONAL, INC

10-31-01

Date

Dear Sir:

Information Disclosure Statement

The following references are known to the Applicants and Applicants' attorney. These references involve methods of making products having a foam layer or methods of making nonwoven fibrous mats.

1. U. S. Pat. No. 4,169,915 - Heitmann et al - Issued 10/2/79

This reference is typical of prior art manufacture of a non-woven fiber mat faced foam laminate in which a foam or foam precursor is applied to a dry non-woven mat or a dry coated non-woven mat. This reference does not teach or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet non-woven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

2. U. S. Pat. No. 5,501,895 - Finley et al - Issued 3/26/96

This reference teaches making a vinyl flooring underlayment by foaming a polymer into a portion of the thickness of a dry, resin bonded, fibrous non-woven mat. Nothing in this reference teaches or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet non-woven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

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3. U. S. Pat. No. 5,514,417 - Matthews et al - Issued 5/7/96

This reference teaches coating, such as spray coating, dry work products such as non-woven fibrous pipe insulation to encapsulate dust and loose fibers in their exterior surfaces. Nothing in this reference teaches or reasonably suggests coating a wet non-woven fibrous mat on line with a foam coating followed by drying the wet mat and the foam coating together.

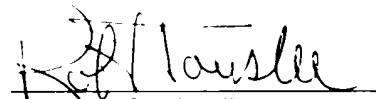
4. U. S. Pat. No. 5,578,363 - Finley et al - Issued 11/26/96

This reference is a continuation-in-part of U. S. Pat. No. 5,501,895 discussed above and does not teach or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet nonwoven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

5. U. S. Pat. No. 6,187,697 B 1 - Jaffee et al - Issued 2/13/2001

This reference teaches making a multi-layer nonwoven mat wherein fibers, particles or a mixture of the two is included in a binder for the mat and applied onto a wet nonwoven fibrous membrane wherein most of the particles and/or fibers remain on top of the wet fibrous membrane to form a distinct layer of the multi-layer mat. This reference does not teach or reasonably suggest applying a layer of foam to a wet nonwoven fibrous mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

Respectfully submitted,


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